

1. A transmitter comprising:

a transmission processing means for transferring a content signal or processing copyright protection on a content signal and then transferring the processed content signal and

a transmission controlling means for holding information indicating a receiver which does not have a function enabling copying of content by using the content signal or the processed content signal transferred from the transmission processing means and controlling output of the signal to be transferred from the transmission processing means according to whether or not information indicating the receiver which is connected to the transmission processing means is included in the held information.

2. A transmitter as set forth in claim 1, wherein said transmitter comprises a protection detecting means for determining if said content is copyright protected and

said transmission control means transfers a copyright protected content signal from said transmission processing means when said protection detecting means determines that said content is copyright protected and transfers a non-copyright protected content signal

regardless of the result of decision at the protection detecting means when it is determined that information indicating the receiver connected to said transmission processing means is included in said held information.

5           3.    A transmitter as set forth in claim 2, wherein  
              said transfer controlling means monitors for a  
change in connection of the receiver connected to said  
transmission processing means while transferring a  
content signal of copyright protected content without  
10 providing copyright protection and controls said  
transmission processing means so as not to transfer a  
non-copyright protected content signal when it detects  
that the connection has been changed.

15           4.    A transmitter as set forth in claim 3, wherein  
              said transmission controlling means monitors  
for a change in connection of said receiver by a hot plug  
detection function or plug and play function.

20           5.    A transmitter as set forth in claim 3, wherein  
              said transmission controlling means suspends  
the transfer of the non-copyright protected content  
signal or transfers a copyright protected content signal  
instead of the non-copyright protected content signal so  
that said non-copyright protected content signal is not  
transferred.

25           6.    A transmitter as set forth in claim 1, wherein

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said transmission controlling means holds information indicating said receiver in a tamper-proof updateable manner.

7. A signal transfer method including of the steps  
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holding in a transmitter information indicating receivers not having the function of being able to receive a content signal to copy the content and controlling the output of the content signal or  
10 copyright protected content signal at the transmitter according to whether or not information indicating a connected receiver is included in the held information.

8. A signal transfer method as set forth in claim 7, comprising the steps of  
15 determining whether to provide copyright protection for said content using said content signal and transferring said copyright protected content signal when determining that the content is copyright protected and receiving said non-copyright protected  
20 content signal regardless of whether said content is copyright protected when determining that information indicating the connected receiver is included in said held information.

9. A signal transfer method as set forth in claim  
25 8, comprising the steps of

prohibiting the transfer of said non-copyright  
protected content signal when detecting that the  
connection has been changed.

monitoring for a change in connection of said receiver by a hot plug detection function or plug and play function.

suspending the transfer of the non-copyright protected content signal or transferring a copyright protected content signal instead of the non-copyright protected content signal so as to prohibit the transfer of said non-copyright protected content signal.

a data providing means for adding first control information for controlling a usage state of the content data to the intended content data and providing the result as the data to be distributed,

25 a data transmitting means for performing

predetermined second encryption on said provided data to be distributed and transmitting the encrypted data to be distributed, and

a data receiving means for receiving said transmitted encrypted data to be distributed, performing decryption of said second encryption, detecting said first control information from the decrypted data to be distributed, and controlling the output of said content data based on the detected first control information.

13. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 12, wherein

said data providing means superimposes said first control information as electronic watermark information on said content data and provides the superimposed content data as the data to be distributed to said data transmitting means,

said data transmitting means performs the predetermined second encryption on said provided data to be distributed and transmits the encrypted data to be distributed, and

said data receiving means receives said transmitted encrypted data to be distributed, performs the decryption of said second encryption, detects said superimposed first control information from the decrypted data to be distributed, and controls the output of said

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14. A data distribution system as set forth in  
claim 13, wherein

said data transmitting means performs said second encryption for said provided data to be distributed and transmits the encrypted data to be distributed, and

15. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 14, wherein

said data transmitting means adds second control information for controlling a usage state of the content data to said provided data to be distributed, performs said second encryption on said data to be distributed with the second control information added thereto, and transmits the encrypted data to be distributed, and

said data receiving means receives said transmitted encrypted data to be distributed, performs the decryption of said second encryption, detects said second control information, generates the content data with the electronic watermark information superimposed thereon by performing the decryption of said first encryption for said decrypted data to be distributed, detects the first control information superimposed as said electronic watermark information from the generated content data, and controls the output of said content data based on said detected first control information and second control information.

16. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 12, wherein

said data providing means adds a control descriptor indicating said first control information to said content data and provides the content data with the control descriptor added thereto as the data to be

distributed to said data transmitting means,

said data transmitting means performs the predetermined second encryption for said provided data to be distributed and transmits the encrypted data to be distributed, and

said data receiving means receives said transmitted encrypted data to be distributed, performs the decryption of said second encryption, detects said added first control information from the decrypted data to be distributed, and controls the output of said content data based on the detected first control information.

17. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 12, wherein

said data transmitting means adds second control information for controlling a usage state of the content data to said provided data to be distributed, performs said second encryption for said data to be distributed with the second control information added thereto, and transmits the encrypted data to be distributed, and

said data receiving means receives said transmitted encrypted data to be distributed, performs the decryption of said second encryption, detects said second information, performs the decryption of said first

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information as an analog signal output in response to a request.

19. A data distribution system as set forth in claim 12, wherein

5           said data receiving means further has a memory means for storing information concerning charging with respect to a usage of the content data based on a usage state of said received content data.

20. A data distribution method including the steps  
10 of

          adding first control information for  
controlling a usage state of content data to intended  
content data based on an instruction of an owner of the  
content data and providing the result as the data to be  
15 distributed,

          performing predetermined second encryption on  
said provided data to be distributed,

          transmitting the encrypted data to be  
distributed,

20           receiving said transmitted encrypted data to be  
distributed at any receiver,

          performing the decryption of said second  
encryption,

          detecting said first control information from  
25 the decrypted data to be distributed, and

controlling the output of said content data  
based on the detected first control information.

21. A data distribution method as set forth in  
claim 20, comprising

5           superimposing said first control information as  
electronic watermark information on said content data and  
providing the superimposed content data as the data to be  
distributed and

10           detecting said first control information from  
the decrypted data to be distributed by detecting said  
electronic watermark information from said decrypted data  
to be distributed.

22. A data distribution method as set forth in  
claim 21, comprising

15           performing predetermined first encryption on  
the content data with said first control information  
superimposed thereon as the electronic watermark  
information and providing the encrypted data as said data  
to be distributed,

20           performing decryption of said first encryption  
on the data for which decryption of said second  
encryption was performed to generate content data with  
said electronic watermark information superimposed  
thereon, and

25           detecting said superimposed first control

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information from said generated content data.

23. A data distribution method as set forth in claim 22, comprising

adding second control information for  
5 controlling a usage state of the content data to said provided data to be distributed,

performing said second encryption on said data to be distributed with the second control information added thereto,

10 transmitting the encrypted data to be distributed,

receiving said transmitted encrypted data to be distributed at any receiver,

performing the decryption of said second  
15 encryption,

detecting said second control information,  
generating the content data with the electronic watermark information superimposed thereon by performing the decryption of said first encryption for said  
20 decrypted data to be distributed,

detecting the first control information superimposed as said electronic watermark information from the generated content data, and

controlling the output of said content data  
25 based on said detected first control information and

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24. A data distribution method as set forth in  
claim 20, comprising  
adding said first control information by adding  
5 a control descriptor indicating said first control  
information to said content data and  
detecting said first control information by  
detecting said added first control information from the  
data to be distributed for which decryption of said  
10 second encryption is performed.

25. A data distribution method as set forth in  
claim 24, comprising  
adding second control information for  
controlling a usage state of the content data to said  
15 provided data to be distributed,  
performing said second encryption for said data  
to be distributed with the second control information  
added thereto,  
transmitting the encrypted data to be  
20 distributed,  
receiving said transmitted encrypted data to be  
distributed,  
performing the decryption of said second  
encryption,  
25 detecting said second information,

performing the decryption of said first encryption for said decrypted data to be distributed to generate content data with the control descriptor added thereto,

5                detecting the first control information added as the control descriptor from the generated content data, and

                 controlling the output of said content data based on said detected first control information and  
10            second control information.

26. A data distribution method as set forth in claim 20, comprising

                 superimposing third control information for controlling a usage state of the signal when outputting  
15            said content data by an analog signal on the content data as the electronic watermark information and providing the content data with the third control information superimposed thereon as said data to be distributed,

                 performing the predetermined second encryption  
20            for said provided data to be distributed,

                 transmitting the encrypted data to be distributed,

                 receiving said transmitted encrypted data to be distributed at any receiver,

25            performing the decryption of said second

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encryption, and

outputting the signal with the decrypted said  
third control information superimposed thereon as the  
electronic watermark information when at least an analog  
5 signal output is requested.

27. A data distribution method as set forth in  
claim 20, comprising

charging for usage of the content data based on  
a usage state of said received content data.

10 28. A data receiver for receiving a signal  
comprised of data to be distributed including intended  
content data plus first control information for  
controlling a usage state of the content data and  
transmitted after performing predetermined second  
15 encryption, comprising

a receiving means for receiving said  
transmitted signal,

a second decrypting means for performing  
decryption of said second encryption with respect to said  
20 received signal,

a first control information detecting means for  
detecting said first control information from said  
decrypted data to be distributed, and

an output controlling means for controlling the  
25 output of said content data based on said detected first

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control information.

29. A data receiver as set forth in claim 28,  
wherein

5 said signal to be transmitted is a signal  
comprised of content data plus first control information  
on which predetermined first encryption is performed and  
further on which predetermined second encryption is  
performed,

10 said receiver further comprises a first  
decrypting means for performing decryption of said first  
encryption with respect to the data decrypted by said  
second decrypting means, and

15 said first control information detecting means  
detects said first control information from said data to  
be distributed resulting from the decryption at said  
first decrypting means.

30. A data receiver as set forth in claim 29,  
wherein

20 said first decrypting means performs said  
decryption using predetermined key data distributed by an  
owner of said content data.

31. A data receiver as set forth in claim 30,  
wherein

25 said second decrypting means performs said  
decryption using predetermined key data distributed by a



transmitting party of said signal.

32. A data receiver as set forth in claim 31,  
wherein

5 said first control information is superimposed  
on said content data as electronic watermark information,  
and

10 said first control information detecting means  
detects said first control information superimposed as  
said electronic watermark information from said decrypted  
data to be distributed.

33. A data receiver as set forth in claim 28,  
wherein

15 said signal to be transmitted is a signal  
comprised of content data plus said first control  
information and second control information for  
controlling a usage state of said content data on which  
predetermined first encryption is performed and further  
predetermined second encryption is performed,

20 said receiver further comprises  
a second control information detecting means  
for detecting said second control information from said  
decrypted data to be distributed and

25 a control content determining means for  
determining a content of control based on said detected  
first control information and second control information,

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and

said output controlling means controls the output of said content data in accordance with the determined content of control.

5        34. A data receiver as set forth in claim 33,  
wherein

said first control information is information set by an owner of said content data,

10        said second control information is information set by a transmitting party of said signal, and

15        said control content determining means determines said content of control so that the setting by the owner of said content data is given priority over the setting by the transmitting party of said signal based on said detected first control information and second control information.

35. A data receiver as set forth in claim 31,  
wherein

20        said first control information is added to said content data as a control descriptor, and

said first control information detecting means detects first control information added as said control descriptor from said decrypted data to be distributed.

25        36. A data receiver as set forth in claim 28,  
wherein

5 said signal to be transmitted is a signal  
comprised of said content data plus third control  
information for controlling a usage state of the signal  
when outputting said content data by an analog signal as  
the electronic watermark information, and

10 said output controlling means outputs a signal  
including said third control information superimposed as  
electronic watermark information when outputting said  
content data by an analog signal in response to a  
request.

37. A data receiver as set forth in claim 28,  
further having

15 a memory means for storing information  
concerning charging with respect to a usage of the  
content data based on a usage state of said received  
content data.

38. A data provider comprising  
a control information adding means for adding  
control information for controlling a usage state of  
20 content data designated by an owner of the content data  
to intended content data and

provides the content data with said control  
information added thereto as data to be distributed.

25 39. A data provider as set forth in claim 38, which  
further has an encrypting means for encrypting

by a predetermined scheme the content data to which said control information is added and

provides said encrypted content data.

40. A data provider as set forth in claim 39,

5 wherein

said control information adding means superimposes said control information on said content data as electronic watermark information.

41. A data provider as set forth in claim 39,

10 wherein

said control information adding means adds said control information to said content data as a control descriptor.

42. A data provider as set forth in claim 38, which

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further has an analog signal control information adding means for superposing, as electronic watermark information on said content data, analog signal control information, designated by an owner of said content data, for controlling a usage state of a signal when said content data is output as an analog signal and provides content data on which said analog signal control information is superimposed.

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43. A data providing method including the steps of

adding control information for controlling a

25 usage state of content data designated by an owner of

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encrypting said content data with the control information added thereto by a predetermined method, and providing the encrypted content data as the data to be distributed.

providing key data for decrypting said encrypted content data to only a receiver receiving said distributed encrypted content data.

a transferring means for transferring said encrypted data to be distributed to any channel.